



2026 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

N.C. Recycling Business Assistance Center

Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS)

Department of Environmental Quality

The N.C. Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC) seeks viable, well-planned proposals from North Carolina-based businesses for projects that increase private-sector capacity to incorporate scrap tire materials into products and other end uses. For the purposes of this grant program, a qualifying business is defined as a private-sector organization that processes tires for end-use recycled product manufacturing and/or creates value-added products using processed scrap tire material.

This document is a Request for Proposals for fundable projects to meet the goals of the grant cycle. Applicants should review this RFP in its entirety and, if needed, discuss their proposed projects with the grant program manager prior to submitting a proposal.

Contact:

Emily Weaver

919-707-8913

Emily.Weaver@deq.nc.gov

Deadline:

5:00pm, March 23, 2026

Grant funding:

Any amount up to **\$1,000,000**

Cash Match:

10% of grant award

What kinds of projects will be funded?

RBAC seeks viable, well-planned proposals from North Carolina-based businesses for projects that increase private-sector capacity to process and incorporate processed scrap tire materials into products and other end uses, in alignment with [State Senate Bill 706](#). This grant program supports the goals of the [2024-2034 Statewide Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan](#), which prioritizes expansions of recycling infrastructure, market development, and circular-economy outcomes.

Grant money is intended to assist with expanding market opportunities for tire-derived fuel, crumb rubber, carbon black, and other tire components used in manufactured goods or building materials. Grant money **cannot** be used to cover land purchases, salaries, labor costs, general operational expenses, marketing, or the cost of local government processing.

Fundable Project Types

Grants are limited to capital expenditures needed to establish or enhance capability for processing scrap tires for recycling or manufacturing products from scrap tire materials. Examples include:

- a) **Manufacturing equipment or facility improvements** to create a new product using rubber, carbon black, crumb rubber, or other products made from processed scrap tire materials (e.g., tires, mats, auto parts, gaskets, flooring material); and
- b) **Recycling equipment, systems upgrades, or facility improvements** to support intermediate processing of scrap tires and expand or modernize processing capacity (e.g., molding machines, extrusion tools, devulcanization units, dedicated processing lines, storage, material handling, pneumatic systems).

Ineligible Project Costs

Grant funds may not be used for routine operating expenses or costs not directly tied to capital equipment or permanent facility improvements. Examples include:

- a) **Operating expenses**, such as salaries, rent/lease payments, utilities, fuel, routine maintenance, tipping or processing fees, and other recurring operational or production labor costs; and
- a) **Non-capital/indirect costs**, including land acquisition, marking, and general administrative costs.

To discuss your project ideas, contact Emily Weaver at emily.weaver@deq.nc.gov or 919-707-8913.

Available funding and cash match required

Eligible applicants may request any amount of grant funding up to a maximum of \$1,000,000. Grant requests for lower funding amounts will not impact a project's competitiveness. All applications will be reviewed based on the pre-established award scoring criteria outlined on page 3.

Applicants must provide at least a **10% cash match** of the requested grant amount. For example, an applicant requesting a \$100,000 grant would have to match the grant award with at least \$10,000 in cash or direct expenditures.

Upon consideration of the proposals received, RBAC reserves the right to award grant amounts that are lower than the amount requested by an applicant. Contract execution and disbursement of grant funds are contingent upon the availability of funds to RBAC for this purpose.

Funding period

After the grant is awarded, it is anticipated that the grant contract period will begin on April 15, 2026, and end on March 31, 2027. **Eligible purchases made on or after October 1, 2025, may be reimbursed, provided the costs are included in the approved project budget and supported by itemized receipts/invoices and proof of payment. Purchases made before October 1, 2025, or outside the approved scope/budget will not be reimbursed.** All purchases must be complete before the contract end date of March 31, 2027, unless the time is extended by written agreement between the applicant and the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Extensions are possible but not guaranteed.

How will grant funds be disbursed to award recipients?

All funds for RBAC grants are distributed on a reimbursement basis. Requests for reimbursement must include: (1) proof that funds were spent for the budgeted items in the grant contract, including an original receipt marked paid for the purchased equipment or work completed under the grant project; (2) contact information of equipment vendor; and, (3) electronic photographs of the equipment purchased or work completed. In addition, approval of reimbursement requests is subject to independent DEQ verification of purchases with the vendors of the equipment or item.

RBAC will continue to reimburse grantees until 90% of the award amount has been expended, withholding 10% of funds until receipt of an approved final report.

Who is eligible?

Private-sector applicants that accept and process discarded tires into scrap tire materials (tire-derived fuel, crumb rubber, carbon black, and other tire components) and/or manufacture value-added products using scrap tire materials are eligible for funding under this grant cycle. Examples of manufactured products include rubber mats, auto parts, flooring, gaskets, carbon black, or developers of tire-derived aggregate infrastructure.

One funding request per applicant will be accepted. Former applicants are eligible to apply for future grant funding under this program.

Notice: Any applicant that is considered a waste processing or disposal site for tires (i.e. collects, shreds, grinds or otherwise prepares scrap tires) must be registered with the N.C. Division of Waste Management Solid Waste

Section in compliance with state law (15A.N.C.A.C. 13B.100). Any such applicant not registered with the State and not a certified facility will NOT be eligible for grant funds.

Companies on the [N.C. Office of State Budget and Management's Suspension of Funding List](#) due to failure to complete applicable financial reports for any previous North Carolina state agency grant are ineligible to compete unless removed from the list prior to the proposal deadline. If selected for grant funding, business will be required to certify that they are not debarred from doing business with any Federal or State department or agency.

All applicants selected for funding are subject to a compliance review to ensure they are meeting applicable permitting and regulatory requirements. Prospective grantees found to be out of compliance must resolve all compliance issues and submit proof of compliance before receiving a grant contract.

Applicants are also responsible for contacting the appropriate state and local regulatory agencies to obtain information about permitting requirements for the proposed grant project. All permitting requirements must be satisfied prior to receiving any grant funding.

For information pertaining to the permitting of new solid waste facilities or altering existing permits, contact DEQ's Division of Waste Management, Solid Waste Section, [Permitting Branch](#), at 919-707-8235. For general permitting information, please contact the NC DEQ hotline at 1-877-623-6748.

How do you apply?

A complete **Proposal Checklist** is provided on page six of this RFP. This checklist describes what applicants must submit for their proposal to be considered complete. Existing businesses must complete the Business Status Report. Start-up businesses must complete the Business Plan Form and submit a formal business plan. A business is considered a start-up until it is in operation and can show financials for at least three years. *All necessary application forms are provided below. Proposals that fail to provide all the required information and forms will be deemed inadequate and will not be considered for funding.*

Grant selection process

The selection committee will use the pre-established criteria below to rank proposals and make award decisions. Applicants are encouraged to consider the award scoring criteria as they develop their grant proposals. A total of 100 points is available. The RBAC grant application review process should be completed and preliminary award announcements made in April 2026.

- | <u>Award Scoring Criteria</u> | <u>Available points</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Business Planning | (0 - 25 points) |
| Does the proposal indicate sufficient business planning and experience to ensure the success of the proposed project? How well does the proposal and/or business plan address the essential elements of feedstock supply, recycling market development, financing, material handling and other key issues? | |
| 2. Project Planning | (0 – 30 points) |
| Did the Project Description include all necessary elements as outlined in the Required Proposal Format? Is the proposal well thought out, well researched and backed by valid facts and assumptions? Is the project consistent with recycling industry best management practices? | |
| 3. Cost-effectiveness | (0 - 25 points) |
| Is it clear that the proposed project will have economic merit (i.e., through reductions in operating cost, potential capital cost savings, stimulation of higher prices for recycled materials, or through development of new markets)? Is it clear that the project will be sustainable after the grant is complete? Are the cost elements of the proposal appropriate for the successful completion of the project? | |
| 4. Impact on Waste Stream Size or Toxicity | (0 - 20 points) |
| Will the proposed project lead to a clear, definitive impact on wastes being disposed of in landfills, either directly through diversion or indirectly through stimulation of the demand for an alternative product? | |

How do I submit a proposal?

One electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted to Emily Weaver at emily.weaver@deq.nc.gov. Submit electronic applications as Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF attachments. Please refrain from using shareable links (e.g., Google Docs, Dropbox) to send documents. If you are unable to submit an application electronically, please contact Emily Weaver at 919-707-8913 for alternative arrangements. Please note that the application deadline still applies.

Deadline for proposals

Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 23, 2026.

Proposals received after the deadline will NOT be considered. Receipt of all proposals will be acknowledged by email. It is the responsibility of anyone submitting a proposal to contact our office if they do not receive a confirmation acknowledgement. No arrangements will be made for lost applications after the due date. ***If you do not receive a confirmation, contact Emily Weaver at emily.weaver@deq.nc.gov or 919-707-8913 as soon as possible.***

If Selected for Funding

RBAC anticipates that applicants selected for funding will be notified by April 2026. RBAC will notify the applicant with a formal offer by email.

- **Within 5 business days of notification:**
 - Successful applicants must accept or decline the offer.
 - Successful applicants must provide their federal tax ID number.
 - If the grant award is different than the requested grant amount, successful applicants must submit a revised budget and project description reflecting the accepted offer. Any changes to initial proposals must be approved by RBAC and the applicant, and the resultant final proposal will become an attachment to a grant contract.

Failure to respond with the above information will result in the grant award being rescinded.

- RBAC will complete a compliance review with the N.C. Division of Waste Management (which may occur before offer is accepted). Prospective grantees will not be awarded a contract unless and until all regulatory and compliance issues are resolved, as independently verified by the Division of Waste Management.
- Once the offer is accepted, RBAC will submit a request through the DEQ contract processing system for a grant contract. Grantees must sign and return the grant contract per the written instructions provided within 5 business days of receipt. RBAC anticipates contracts being prepared and signed by April 15, 2026. This date is subject to change.

Other general terms and conditions

Terms and conditions will be outlined in the grant contract. In addition, all grantees are subject to the following terms and conditions:

- **Quarterly Check-ins** – RBAC staff will schedule quarterly check-ins with grantees for project updates and technical assistance.
- **Site Visits** – RBAC staff will perform at least one site visit to verify grant-related purchases after reimbursement is requested.
- **Reimbursement** – All funds for RBAC grants are distributed on a reimbursement basis. Requests for reimbursement must include proof that funds were spent for the budgeted items and include an original receipt marked paid (or paid invoice) for the purchased equipment or work completed under the grant project. Vendor contact information must also be provided. Approval of reimbursement requests are subject to independent DEQ verification of purchases with the vendor(s). **Eligible purchases made on or after October 1, 2025, may be reimbursed, provided the costs are included in the approved project budget**

and supported by itemized receipts/invoices and proof of payment. Purchases made before October 1, 2025, or outside the approved scope/budget will not be reimbursed.

- **Final Report** – When the grant project is complete, grantees must submit a final report to the RBAC grant manager. A final report template will be provided by the assigned RBAC grant project manager.
- **Final 10% of Grant Funds** – The final 10% of grant funds will be held until an approved final report has been received by RBAC. *The report must be received and approved prior to the end date of the contract.* All final requests for reimbursement must be received within 30 days of the contract end-date or all remaining grant funds will be forfeited.
- **Extensions** – No-cost time extensions are possible but not guaranteed for grant contracts. Grantees seeking no-cost time extensions must request an extension 60 days prior to the contract end date; extension requests received less than 60 days prior to the end date may be denied. The request for extension must indicate the reason that the extension is being requested (i.e., why the project cannot be completed on time). Any request for an extension must include a new timeline of project milestones and a new budget. Extensions request templates are available through the assigned RBAC grant project manager.



2026 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

Before submitting your grant application packet, use the checklist below to make sure you have included all the necessary documents. **Incomplete proposals will not be considered.**

_____ A completed **Contact Form** below.

_____ Register for NC e-procurement through the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP) at <https://evp.nc.gov/>. If you are already registered, please check that the address used in eVP matches the facility location in which you want grant reimbursement payments sent. Check the appropriate “yes” box on the Contact Form to indicate that you have done so.

_____ A completed **Grant Proposal** using the form below to describe the proposed grant project. The grant proposal should be no longer than four pages (i.e., two double-sided pages).

_____ A preliminary **Grant Budget and Timeline** on the form below.

_____ An **Official Quote** from a vendor for proposed equipment or work to be completed as part of the project, and/or itemized invoices/receipts (with proof of payment) for eligible project costs already incurred since Oct. 1, 2025 and requested for retroactive reimbursement.

_____ A completed **Business Form**. Choose from **one of the following** based on whether you are a start-up or existing recycling business. A business or nonprofit is considered a start-up until it has been in operation and can show financials for at least three years.

- **Business Plan Form AND a Formal Business Plan for Start-Up Businesses Only.**
- OR -**
- **Business Status Form for Existing Businesses Only.**

_____ The following three forms (**REQUIRED**):

_____ (1) **No Overdue Taxes Certification** (with notarized signature)

_____ (2) **Conflict of Interest Policy**

_____ (3) **Statement of Non-Debarment**

Templates for these forms can be downloaded at: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/environmental-assistance-and-customer-service/recycling-and-materials-management/programs-offered/grant-opportunities#GrantApplicationForms-19960>.

_____ **Optional: Supporting Documents** which may include letters of endorsement, copies of resolutions, documentation of partnerships, etc.

Email Grant Application to emily.weaver@deq.nc.gov

Deadline: Monday, March 23, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.



2026 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT CONTACT FORM

IMPORTANT: Use the *Proposal Checklist* on **page 6** of this RFP to be sure that all necessary documents are completed and included in your submission.

Recycling Project Category: <i>See page 1 for a description of project categories.</i> Project Type – indicate applicable project area <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing equipment or facility improvements to create a new product using rubber, carbon black, crumb rubber, or other products made from processed scrap tire materials (e.g., tires, mats, auto parts, gaskets, flooring material); <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling equipment, systems upgrades, or facility improvements to support intermediate processing of scrap tires and expand or modernize processing capacity (e.g., molding machines, extrusion tools, devulcanization units, dedicated processing lines, storage, material handling, pneumatic systems).		Applicant: Please choose one: <input type="checkbox"/> Existing Recycling Business <input type="checkbox"/> Start-up Recycling Business	
Company or Organization Name:		Contact Name & Title:	
Registered in NC e-procurement through the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP) (https://evp.nc.gov/): <input type="checkbox"/> YES <i>Be sure that the address used in e-procurement matches the facility location in which you want grant reimbursement payments sent.</i>		Website:	
		Phone Number:	
Mailing Address, Zip Code:		Email Address:	
Facility Address (if different):		County:	
Grant Amount Requested:		Company Cash Match Amount:	
Expected Annual Tons Diverted by Grant Project:			
Total Current Jobs:		Expected New Jobs Created by Grant Project:	

I certify that all of the included statements in this proposal are, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

Signature of Applicant

Date



2026 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT GRANT PROPOSAL

Proposals often receive low scores because applicants fail to follow instructions, leading to uncertainty about the project goals and intended results of the proposed project. The clearer the project description is, the fewer questions a reviewer will have about the validity and/or feasibility of a proposal. Applicants also stand a better chance of success if they complete all required proposal forms and carefully review the grant award selection criteria as they prepare their proposal.

Use the following form to write your grant proposal. You may expand the space below to address each point. Please ensure the completed grant proposal does not exceed four pages (two double-sided printed pages).

1. Describe the proposed project, indicating specifically what you are requesting funding for, and discuss the economic merit of the proposed project (i.e. through development or expansion of new markets, reductions in operating costs, potential cost savings, or stimulation of higher prices for recycled materials). *A brief description of your organization is okay; later sections of the grant application will allow you to expand on your organization. For this section, please focus on describing the **proposed project**.*
(Project Planning: 0-30 points, Cost-Effectiveness: 0-25 points)
2. How will you sustain the project after the grant ends? Address how you will ensure continued success of the project both economically and operationally.
(Project Planning: 0-30 points, Cost-Effectiveness: 0-25 points)
3. How many additional tons of scrap tires will be processed or recycled annually as a result of the proposed project? Please explain.
(Waste Diversion: 0-20 points)
4. Is the project expected to create new jobs? If so, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) positions do you expect will be created?
5. Describe any public or private partnerships you have developed to pursue this proposed project. If applicable, please include documentation of support from partnership entity.
6. If selected for grant funding this proposal will become part of the contract document. If any portions should be redacted from the contract for proprietary reasons, please state as such below.



2026 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT GRANT BUDGET AND TIMELINE

REQUIRED: Attach vendor quotes for proposed items and/or itemized invoices/receipts for eligible items already purchased.

If needed, please add/remove lines to the table below.

Scrap Tire Recycling Market Development Grant Budget			
Item(s)	Cost	Grant Amount	Cash Match*
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
Total Project Cost	\$	\$	\$

*Cash Match: Please indicate below if you have loan, grant, or other funding from a bank, company, or agency for the cash match portion of this grant project.

Describe where your match funds will be coming from:

PROJECT MILESTONES

Please approximate dates for major project milestones. For example, “order equipment,” “install equipment,” “submit draft report to RBAC,” and “submit final report to RBAC.”

Note: Timeline may start as early as October 1, 2025 for retroactive reimbursements.

Project Task	Approximate Implementation Date
•	
•	
•	
•	
• Submit <i>draft</i> Final Report to RBAC for review	No later than March 1, 2027
• Submit Final Report to RBAC to close contract	No later than March 31, 2027

5. Please describe your company's financial projections for 2026, summarizing expected expenses and income, profit or losses.

6. Explain any losses and how your company plans to become profitable in the short term (1-3 years). Please explain how your company's finances are sustainable and not dependent on grant funds.

7. Please disclose information related to any of the following instances that have involved the company or its principals within the past 3 years:
 - Pending or threatened litigation impacting the company's financial condition;
 - Bankruptcy, creditor's right or receivership proceedings;
 - Leins or judgements filed.

8. Include any additional comments on separate pages.